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EXAMINER

JARRETT, SCOTT L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/733,299	Applicant(s) BLANCO, EDGAR E.	
	Examiner SCOTT L. JARRETT	Art Unit 3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-10,12-16 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Non-Final Office Action is in response to Applicant's Request for Continued Examination filed August 20, 2008. Applicant's amendment amended claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 1-21. Currently claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21 are pending, claims 5, 11 and 17 being previously amended.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 20, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

3. The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21 is withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendment to claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21.

The 35 U.S.C. 112(2) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21 is withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments to claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed August 20, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically Applicant's argue that:

- the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest:
 - project type table having project type information for each project referenced by the project type table (Remarks: Paragraphs 1-2, Page 18; Paragraph 2, Page 19); or
 - a the list of project items includes telecommunications infrastructure requirements (Remarks: Paragraph 2, page 18);
- the intended use of the system/method is limited to telecommunications installation projects (Remarks: Paragraph 1, Page 19).

With respect to applicant's argument that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest project type information in a project table or that the project information includes telecommunications infrastructure requirements the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Initially it is noted that the claims recite the following (claim 1 reproduced below, emphasis added):

..... a project-type table having project-type information for each project-type referenced by the project table, the project-type information comprising a list including each item to be employed in connection with the project-type, wherein the list is constructed ***based on at least one of the following:***

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- at least one telecommunications infrastructure requirement for the project-type;
- at least one previous project of a same project-type, and
- at least one new material requirement for the project-type based on *at least one of the following*:
 - at least one new type of construction method,
 - at least one new service, and
 - at least one new regulation;

Examiner interpreted the claims to read that the system/method requires project-type information for each project, the project-type information comprising a list of each item to be employed with the project type and that the list is constructed based on **any one of the following items**:

telecommunications infrastructure requirement

OR

previous project of the same type

OR

a new material requirement for the purpose of examination.

If Applicant's intended that each of these alternatives be required for the claimed invention then Examiner suggest Applicant's amend the claim to positively recite that the project-type information **consists of** one or more telecommunications infrastructure requirement, **and** one or more previous projects of the same type **and** one or more new material requirements in order to more clearly recite the project-type information required for the invention.

Berka teaches project type information comprising a list of items used in connection with a type of project wherein the list is constructed based on ***at least one of the following***: previous project of the same project type *or* new material requirement *or* new service *or* new regulation (pick lists; Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 3) - wherein listed items (bill of materials, commodities used by construction and maintenance) represent new requirements (non-standard) as well as items from previous projects.

As noted in the previous office action, utilizing historical (past, previous) projects to 'construct' a list of items you need to similar future projects is old and very well known in project management wherein project managers commonly model new projects based on previous (completed or ongoing) projects that are similar in one way or another wherein doing so provides well known benefits such as incorporating lessons learned from similar projects (e.g. last time we forgot to do X, this time we need to do X) or simply as a mechanism for quickly "constructing" the list of items needed for a project (e.g. last time we did a project like this we needed Y, this time lets make sure we have Y).

For example, Marsh, Materials Management: Practical Application in the Construction Industry (1985) teaches a system and method for forecasting future demand for quantifiable items in connection with a plurality of projects comprising project type information (table) having information for each item employed in connection with the project type based on at least one previous project of a same project type or a new material requirement ("standard requisition checklists", Column 2, Last Paragraph,

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Page 23; BOMS, Column 3, Last Paragraph, Page 23; Figure 5 – Base Features Relevant to Total Materials Management Software – Column 1, library/data tables – standards; Column 2, BOM generation).

In response to Applicant's argument that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a the list of project items includes telecommunications infrastructure requirements the examiner notes that this limitation is not required by the invention as claimed, see discussion above.

It is noted that the specific data structure (database schema, entity relationship, tables, etc.) claimed merely represent non-functional descriptive material wherein the specific data structure used to realize the forecasting tool does not effect the functionality of the system/method as claimed wherein any of a plurality of specific data structures comprising the same/substantially similar data elements would function in a substantial similar manner and produce the same result, i.e. a forecast/prediction of the materials needed for a project. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

In response to the Applicant's argument that the intended use of the system/method claims differentiates the invention from the cited prior art the examiner respectfully disagrees.

It is noted that the intended use of the system/method for telecommunications installation projects does not change the overall functionality or structure of the system. The intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Further it is noted that the intended use of the forecasting system/method merely represents non-functional descriptive material wherein the systems intended field of use is not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the workload system/method's intended field of use. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the workload system/method's intended field of use. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *MPEP* 2106.

It is noted that the applicant did not challenge the officially cited facts in the previous office action(s) therefore those statements as presented are herein after prior art. Specifically it has been established that it was old and well known in the art at the

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time of the invention to *utilize project management and/or materials management techniques for installation projects in the communications industry* wherein project management and materials management enable firms in the communication industry to manage and control large scale projects such as the installation of communication networks/services and to utilize distributed databases (distributed database management systems, client/server, etc.) wherein distributed databases provide a plurality of benefits/advances including at least transparency (distribution/network, replication, fragmentation), increased reliability and availability or improve performance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puckett et al., Cradle-to-Grave Material Management (1991) in view of Berka et al., Materials Management: A Comprehensive System (1994).

Regarding Claims 1, 6-10, 12-16 and 18-21 Puckett et al. teach a system and method (tool) for forecasting items for a project (identifying, predicting, determining, calculating future item need/requirements) comprising (Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 1; Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1):

- receiving a query (relational database system; Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1);
- accessing a database having item information therein (relational database system; Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1; Figure 5);
- determining a response to the query according to the information in the database (Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-2, Page 4; Column 2, Page 5; Figures 1, 6-7; Table 1);

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- populating a requirements information (table) according to the determined response (Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-2, Page 4; Column 2, Page 5; Figures 1, 6-7; Table 1);
- outputting the requirements table to a display (Figures 3-7);
- (tables for) predicting (estimating, calculating, determining, etc.) future demand (need, requirement, etc.) for quantifiable items (materials, supplies, personnel, resources, parts, components, etc.) in connection with a plurality of projects the tables comprising (Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-2, Page 4; Column 2, Page 5; Figures 1, 6-7; Table 1):
 - (a project table) having project information for each project and including *at least one of the following* reference (link, association, relationship, etc.) to items employed in connection with a project (Figures 1, 6-7; Table 1);
 - an item (materials, supplies, personnel, resources, parts, components, etc.) table having item information referenced by the project (table) and including a reference to an algorithm (equation, formula, expression, calculation, etc.; e.g. Bill of Materials stored in the database, items list; Column 1, Paragraphs 2-3, Page 2) to determine a quantity of an item for a particular project (Column 2, Paragraph 1, Page 6; Figures 1, 3-5; Table 1); and
 - (a algorithm table) having algorithm information for each algorithm referenced by the item table (Bill of Materials, Items List, etc.; Column 1, Paragraphs 2-3, Page 2; Figures 1, 6-7; Table 1);

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- populating, by the forecasting tool (i.e. by the system/method), a requirements (table) with information obtained for the tables in response to a modifiable query for item demands wherein the forecasting tool traverses the tables according to the query to accumulate the data necessary to populate the requirements table (Figures 1-4, 6-7; Table 1); and

- outputting, by the forecasting tool, the requirements table for viewing by personnel (Figures 3-7);

- (a milestone table) having milestone information, wherein the project information further including *at least one of* milestone date for the project including at least one key project moment to which a need for an item for the project is referenced and each milestone date referenced by the project table (Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 4, Page 2; Figures 2-4);

- the item information further including a reference to the milestone information in the milestone table and information on how to calculate a date when the item is required based on the milestone information (Column 1, Paragraphs 1-2, 4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraphs 2-4, Page 2);

- (a supplier table) having supplier information for each supplier references by the item table the supplier information including the items supplied by the supplier and information of the items supplied wherein the item information includes an identification of at least one supplier (Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 2; Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 6; Figure 2; Table 1);

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- calculating an order date based on lead-time information, obtained from the supplier table, and the requirement date (e.g. applying the actual milestone date to calculate the date on which the item is required; Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 2, 4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 3, Page 3; Figures 3-4);

- the requirements (table) being populated with information including a project, item for the project, an amount of the item required for the project based on inputs the algorithm (BOM, items list, etc.), date when the item is needed for the project, the date when the item must be ordered to satisfy the date when the item is needed and the supplier the item is to be ordered from wherein the requirements table data/information is based on the information in the other tables and is viewed by personnel (Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 1; Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraphs 1-4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraphs 1-4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 3, Page 3; Figures 1, 3-7; Table 1).

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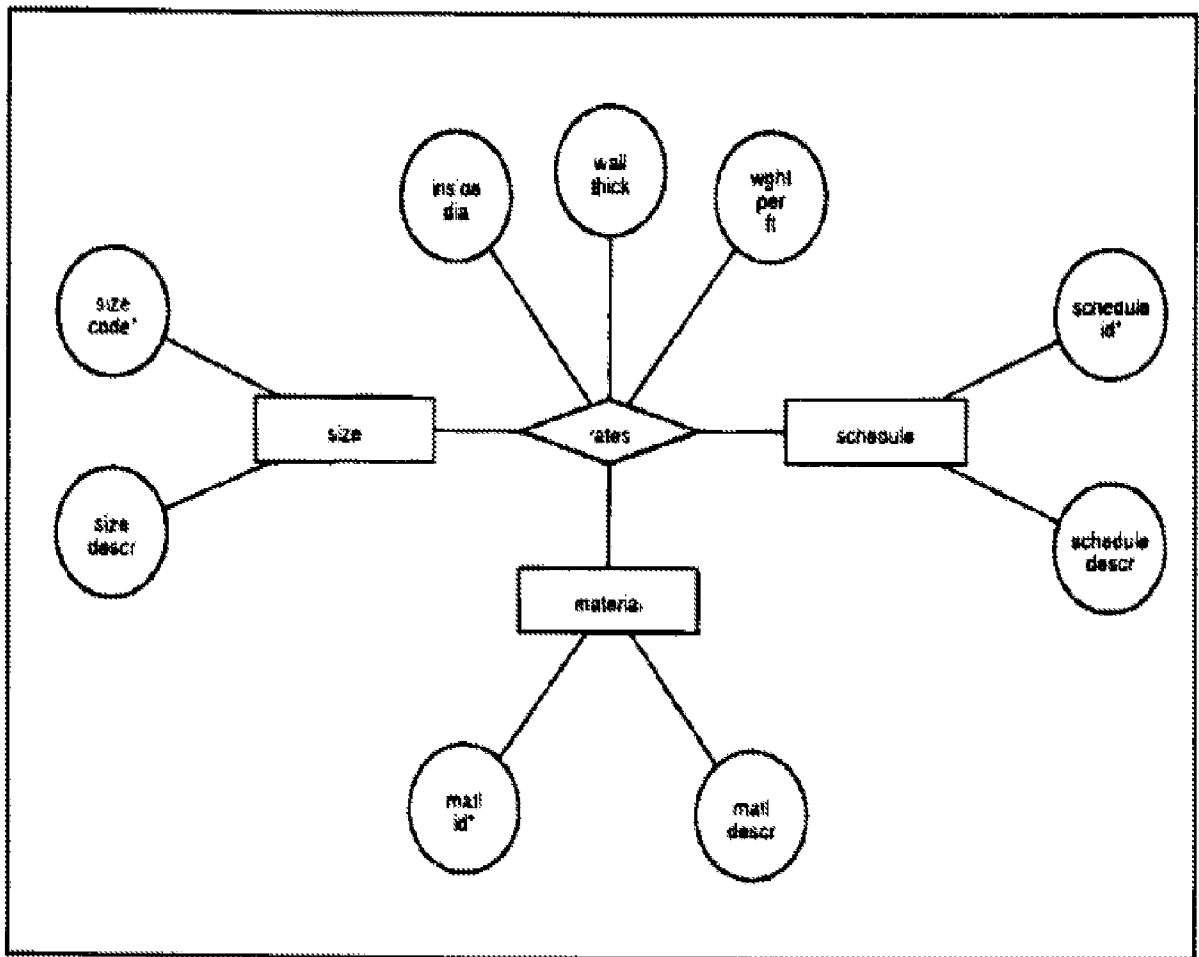


Figure 1 — An Entity Relationship Diagram for Pipe Rating

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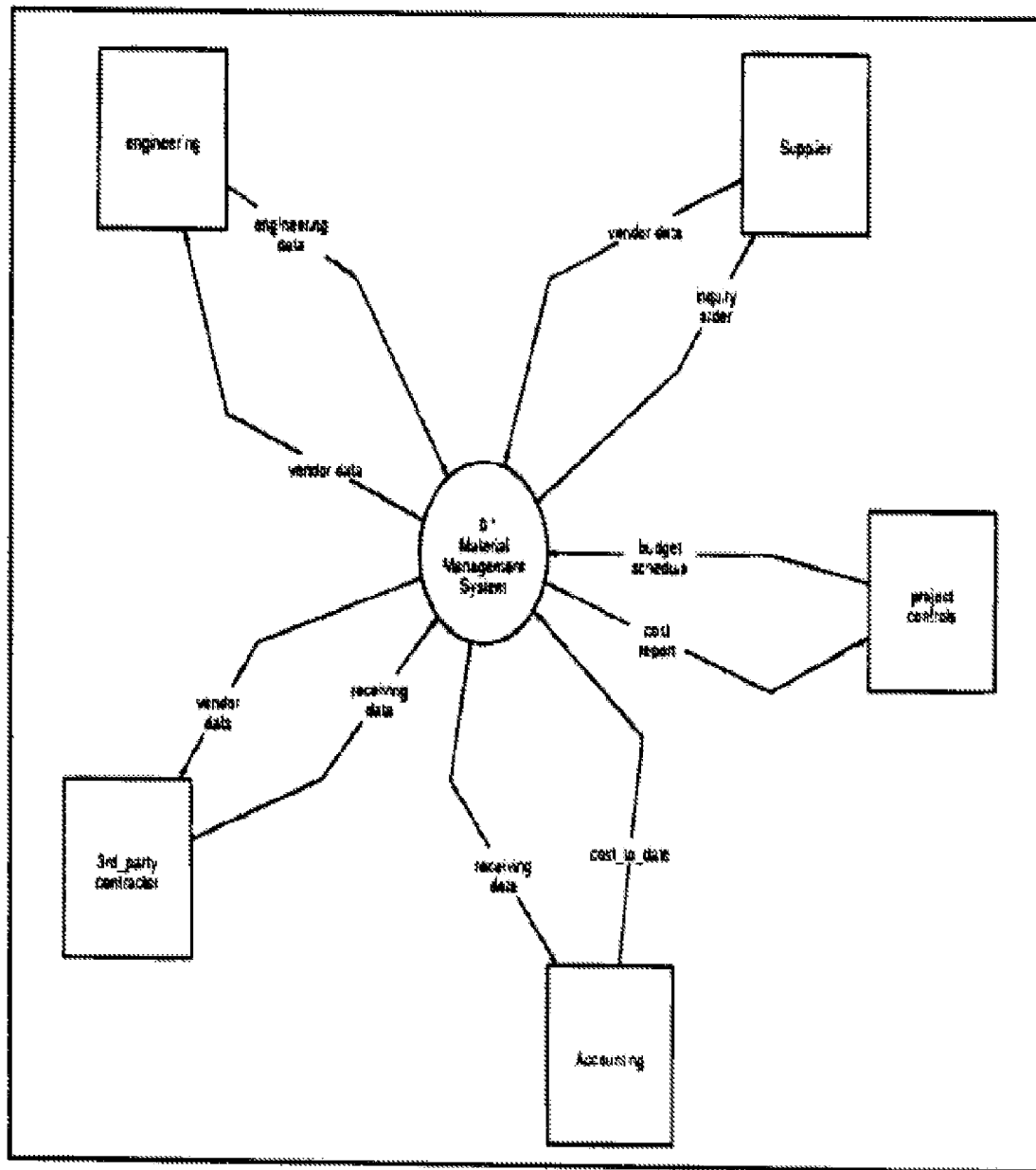


Figure 2 -- A Top-Level Data Flow Diagram

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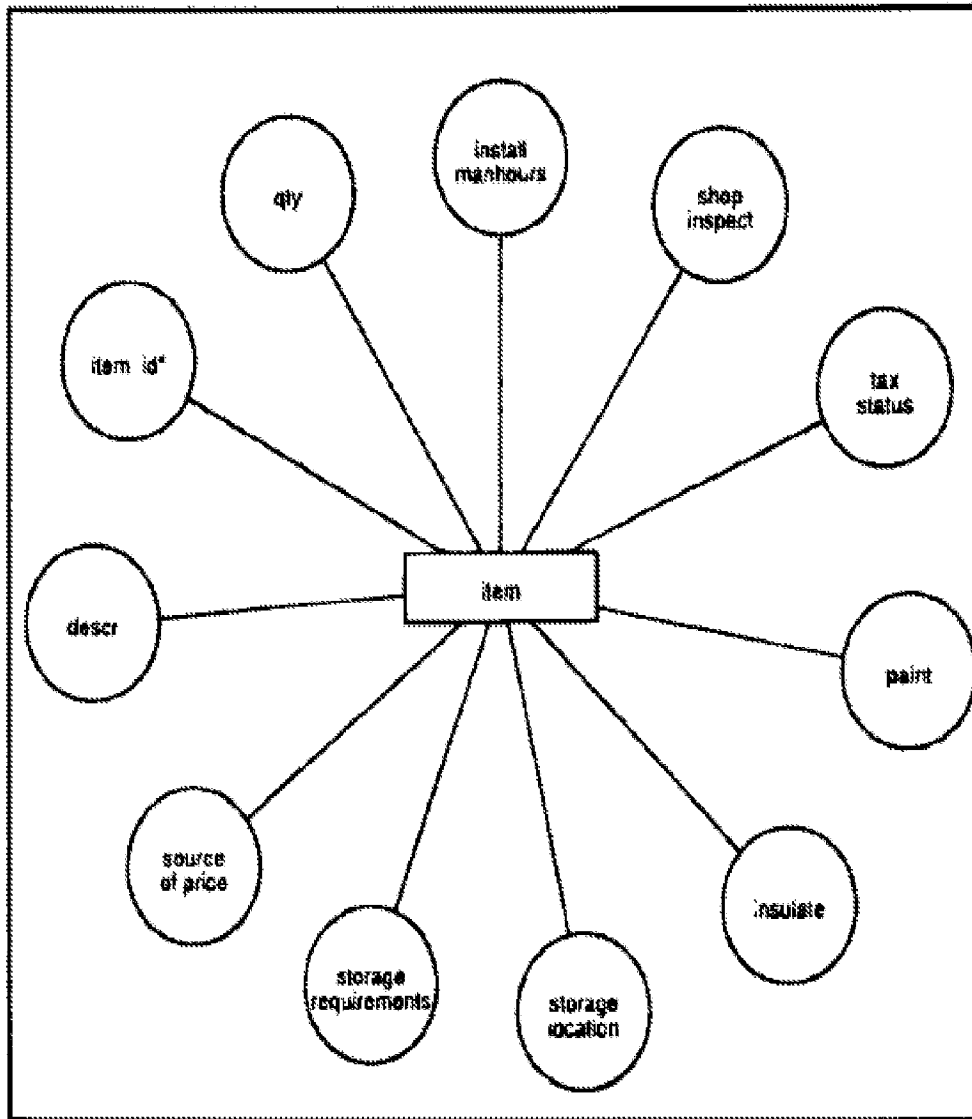


Figure 6 — An Entity Relationship Diagram for Item

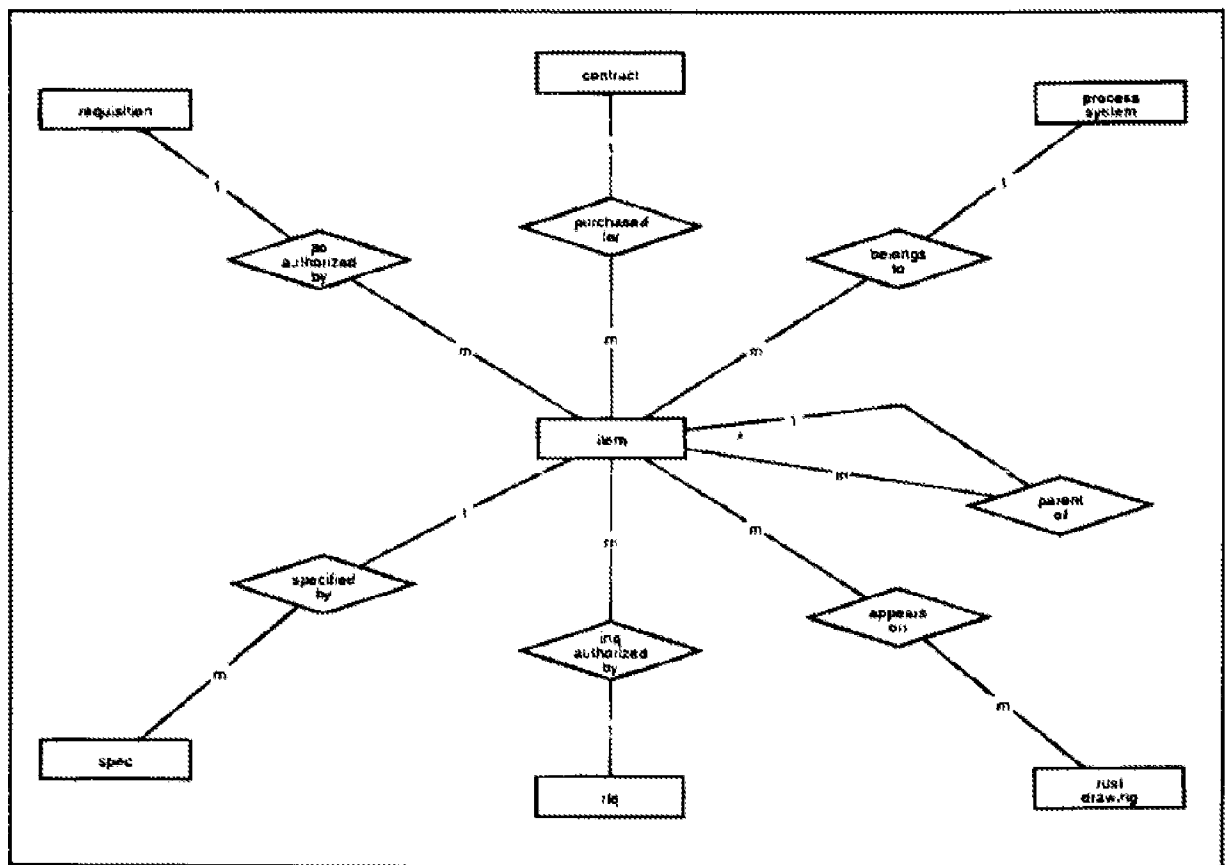


Figure 7 -- An Entity Relationship Diagram that
Depicts Relationships of Item

It is noted that the specific data structure (database schema, entity relationship, tables, etc.) claimed merely represent non-functional descriptive material wherein the specific data structure used to realize the forecasting tool does not effect the functionality of the system/method as claimed wherein any of a plurality of specific data structures comprising the same/substantially similar data elements would function in a substantial similar manner and produce the same result, i.e. a forecast/prediction of the materials needed for a project. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the

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claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Puckett et al. does not expressly teach a project-type table having project-type information for each project referenced by the table, the project type information including an identification of a project type, each item to be employed in connection with the project type as claimed.

Berka teaches a project-type table having project-type information for each project referenced by the table, the project type information including an identification of a project type, each item to be employed in connection with the project type (pick lists; Column 2, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 3) in an analogous art of materials management for the purposes of enabling users to save and reuse common project items (Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 3).

More generally Berka teaches a typical materials management system and method comprising a plurality of project information including but not limited to projects, items needed, milestone dates, item order dates, project bill of materials, item specific/supplier specific lead times, supplier information, contract terms, and the like as well as an output (graphical user interface) for providing the plurality of project information to personnel wishing to view such information (Column 2, Paragraphs 1-3,

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Last Two Paragraphs, Page 2; Column 1, Last Two Paragraphs, Page 3; Column 2, Paragraphs 1-3, Page 4).

Berka further teaches that the materials management system is distributed amongst/between a plurality of systems/locations (Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 2)

XXX	XXX	XX XX
		Labor task or material package number
		Labor or material discipline
		Labor or material type
	Work package number	
Project number		

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for forecasting item requirements for a project (forecasting tool for determining/predicting item requirements in terms of quantities, timing, etc.) as taught by Puckett et al. would have benefited from a project-type table having project-type information for each project referenced by the table, the project type information including an identification of a project type, each item to be employed in connection with the project type as taught by Berka et al.; the resultant system/method enabling personnel to save and reuse common project items (Berka et al.: Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 3).

While the utilization of project management and/or materials management methods are well known in the telecommunications industry neither Puckett et al. nor Berka et al. expressly teach that the intended use of the materials management system and method is limited to only telecommunications installation projects as claimed.

Official notice is taken that the utilization of project management and/or materials management techniques for installation projects in the communications industry is well known and a common business practice wherein project management and materials management enable firms in the communication industry to manage and control large scale projects such as the installation of communication networks/services.

Support for this officially noticed fact can be found in at least the following reference: Imam, Project Management in Telecommunications (1990).

It is noted that the project management and materials management systems and methods disclosed by Puckett et al. and Berka et al. are applicable to any of a plurality of industries and/or project types and are capable of providing well known materials management techniques to forecasting items needed for a telecommunications installation project.

That the materials management system/method is limited to telecommunications installation projects does not change the overall functionality or structure of the system. The intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

Further it is noted that the intended use of the forecasting system/method merely represents non-functional descriptive material wherein the systems intended field of use is not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural

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elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the workload system/method's intended field of use. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the workload system/method's intended field of use. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); *MPEP* 2106.

Regarding Claim 2 Puckett et al. teach a material management system and method wherein the items include at least one of the following (selected from the group consisting of): parts, materials, equipment, labor, time or combinations thereof (Column 1, Paragraph 1, Page 1; Figures 1-7; Table 1).

Regarding Claims 3-4 Puckett et al. teach a material management system and method wherein system is distributed over a company (i.e. company wide) and includes a database service for controlling and coordinating the database (Column 1, Paragraph 2, Page 1; Column 1, Paragraph 4, Page 2; Column 2, Paragraph 2, Page 2; Column 1; Figures 1, 6-7).

Berka et al. teach a distributed materials management system and method as discussed above.

Puckett et al. is silent as to the architecture of the database management system and specifically does not expressly teach that the *databases* are distributed across several computers as claimed.

Official notice is taken that the utilization of distributed databases (distributed database management systems, client/server, etc.) is old and very well known wherein distributed databases provide a plurality of benefits/advances including at least transparency (distribution/network, replication, fragmentation), increased reliability and availability or improve performance (Elmasri et al. Chapter 24.1.2 Advantages of Distributed Databases, Pages 767, 769-770). Support for this officially noticed fact can be found in at least the following reference: Elmasri et al., Fundamentals of Database Systems (2000): Chapter 24 Distributed Databases and Client Server Architecture (Pages 765-795).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the system and method for materials management as taught by the combination of Puckett et al. and Berka et al. with their utilization of well known database management systems would have benefited from utilizing any of a plurality of well known database architectures/structures/designs including but not limited to distributed databases in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant system/method providing transparency and/or improved reliability and availability.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Ito, U.S. Patent No. 5,761,674, teach a system and method for managing construction project information.

- Isherwood, U.S. Patent No. 5,918,219, teach a system and method for managing construction project information including costs and schedules based on historical projects of a similar type.

- Seal et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,117,162, teach a materials management system and method for forecasting/determining and ordering items necessary for a telecommunications installation project.

- Marsh, Materials Management: Practical Application in the Construction Industry (1985) teaches a system and method for forecasting future demand for quantifiable items in connection with a plurality of projects comprising (Figures 1, 2, 5):

- accessing, querying and reporting (displaying) from a plurality of project related tables including material requirement, milestone dates, need dates, order dates, delivery dates/schedule, vendor/supplier, inventory, and project information (Page 23);

- project type information (table) having information for each item employed in connection with the project type based on at least one previous project of a same project type or a new material requirement ("standard requisition checklists", Column 2, Last Paragraph, Page 23; BOMS, Column 3,

Last Paragraph, Page 23; Figure 5 – Base Features Relevant to Total Materials Management Software – Column 1, library/data tables – standards; Column 2, BOM generation).

- Smith-Daniels et al., Optimal Project Scheduling with Materials Ordering (1987), teaches a system and method (tool) for forecasting and ordering the materials (project items, resources, supplies, etc.) necessary for a project wherein the system/method determines a plurality of project type information including material need dates, order dates, material order lead times, material order quantities, and order costs (Table 1).

- Smith-Daniels et al., Constrained Resource Project Scheduling Subject to Material Constraints (1984), teaches a system and method for dynamically identifying, ordering and scheduling the items (materials, supplies, resources, equipment, etc.) for a project comprising a plurality of project information including resource lead times, costs, bills of material, order quantities, order dates, arrival/delivery dates, milestones, and the like in a plurality of tables (Figure 2; Table on Page 377; Table 2).

- Aquilano, Nicholas J., A Form Set of Algorithms For Project Scheduling with Critical Path Scheduling/Material Requirements Planning (1980), teach a system and method forecasting the demand for quantifiable items in connection with a plurality of projects comprising outputting the project's item requirements based on a plurality of project related information including item order lead times, standard billion of materials (Figure 2), material inventory and orders (Figure 3), scheduling item order delivery to

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match planned project activities, project tables (Figure 5), quantity to be order, order dates, need dates and the like.

- Cook, Computerized Materials Management For Engineering/Construction Projects (1984), teach a system and method for identifying, acquiring and distributing a plurality of items for a plurality of projects comprising: standard equipment list, supplier/vendor information, requirements table (Column 1, Number 5, Page G.2.2; Table 1), delivery dates, material quantities, and the like.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT L. JARRETT whose telephone number is (571)272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley Bayat can be reached on (571) 272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott L Jarrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3624